

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1244

By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor Virgil Johnson upon the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those remarkable professionals who have rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, equine sports, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2004, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting thirteen worthy people into the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specifically honor and recognize those sterling professionals who "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2004 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes Virgil Johnson, a highly esteemed Director Emeritus of the Celebration; and

WHEREAS, known as a true gentleman by all who have met him, Mr. Johnson spent ten years on the TWHNC Board of Directors and served as its Chairman; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure on the Board of Directors, Virgil Johnson directed many improvements on the celebration Grounds, including the new barn project, Champions Arena, and Celebration Plaza; and

WHEREAS, by means of his induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Virgil Johnson has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and he should be specially recognized on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Virgil Johnson upon his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, commend him for his meritorious service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.